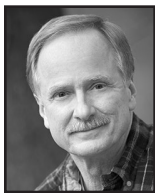


# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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The Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations — a role it has embraced since the creation of Michigan's original Conservation Department in 1921.

The director serves as the department's chief executive officer, monitors program activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of department operations, and ensures that the department's mission, policies and statutory mandates are met. The director's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended) and is authorized by Executive Order 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.

DNR divisions, programs and offices are housed within two main bureaus (Resource and Administration), while some other positions report directly to the department director.

## ***Resource Bureau***

The **Resource Bureau** includes the Fisheries Division, the Forest Resources Division, the Law Enforcement Division, the Parks and Recreation Division, the Wildlife Division and Minerals Management.

The **Fisheries Division** ([www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)) is mandated to protect and manage the state's aquatic resources, including fish populations, other aquatic life and aquatic habitat, which are held in trust for all Michigan citizens. The division promotes the wise use of these resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Michigan offers a wealth of fishing opportunities with its two peninsulas that touch four of the five Great Lakes. The state is blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams. Michigan has 3,000 miles of freshwater shoreline — more than any other state — and more total shoreline than any state except Alaska. In Michigan, you are never more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes. In April 2011, *Field & Stream* magazine's "FlyTalk" blog ranked Michigan as the top fly-fishing state in the nation, basing on factors including all-around opportunities, angler-friendly environment and cultural affinity to fly-fishing.

Fish populations and other forms of aquatic life are monitored and studied by biologists, who strive to ensure their long-term protection while keeping fishing in Michigan among the nation's best. Up to 14 fish species are hatched and reared at six state hatcheries, which have state-of-the-art facilities to produce fish of very high quality. These fish are stocked annually into designated public waters throughout the state to maintain or improve fish populations. Michigan ranks seventh in the nation in fishing with 1.1 million licensed anglers who annually contribute \$2.4 billion to Michigan's economy.

The **Forest Resources Division** ([www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry)) manages, protects and provides for the sustainable use of Michigan's forest resources. Michigan has one of the largest dedicated state forest systems in the nation, spanning 4 million acres. This division sustainably manages those acres to provide critical habitat for wildlife, valuable resources for a thriving timber products industry (which adds \$16 billion a year to Michigan's economy), and beautiful outdoor spaces for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Michigan's forests and other land-based industries play a crucial role in supporting the state's regional and rural economic health. The Forest Resources Division also is charged with protecting state forest resources and private land across the state through its nationally recognized wildfire suppression program.

The **Law Enforcement Division** ([www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers](http://www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers)) is home to Michigan's conservation officers. Its mission is to protect Michigan's natural resources and environment and the health, safety and enjoyment of the public through effective law enforcement and education. Conservation officers are state-licensed law enforcement officers with authority to administer all the criminal/civil laws of Michigan. While their primary duties focus on enforcing regulations for outdoor recreation activities, such as off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, boating, hunting and fishing, they also engage in providing traditional law enforcement assistance, when needed, to local communities across the state. They, along with other support staff within the Law Enforcement Division, handle an array of other responsibilities, including education, recreational safety and public outreach. The division also provides investigative and enforcement services and coordinates emergency management and homeland security responsibilities for the department.

The **Parks and Recreation Division** ([www.michigan.gov/stateparks](http://www.michigan.gov/stateparks)) protects, preserves, acquires and manages Michigan's state parks, cultural and historic resources within state parks, trails, state forest recreation and nearly 1,000 boating access sites. The division also operates 19 state harbors and partners with 63 locally operated public harbors that make up the Harbors of Refuge system. Michigan's 102 state parks annually host more than 22 million visitors and are a major attraction for Michigan's tourism industry, contributing \$650 million to the state's economy in day-use visits and camping alone.

The **Recreation Passport** ([www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport)) grants vehicle access to Michigan state parks, state trailhead parking and boat launches, while also helping to sustain the natural, historic and cultural places that make Michigan a great place to live. Michigan residents get all this by simply checking "YES" for the Recreation Passport when renewing an annual Michigan license plate through the Secretary of State (\$11 for vehicles, \$5 for motorcycles). In addition to supporting statewide recreation, the Recreation Passport also provides communities with recreation development grants for projects that provide health benefits, enhance property values, drive local economies and improve quality of life.

The **Wildlife Division's** ([www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife)) mission is "to enhance, restore and conserve the state's wildlife resources, natural communities and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations." The conservation of more than 400 species of animals — the birds and mammals that sustain our state's hunting heritage, as well as nongame wildlife, including threatened and endangered plant and animal species, is part of that mission. In addition, the Wildlife Division co-manages the state forests with the Forest Resources Division and directly administers approximately 400,000 acres of state game and wildlife management areas. Biologists make sound, science-based recommendations on hunting regulations, habitat management and public hunting access, and protect more than 340 threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Michigan is among the top states in the nation in almost every hunting category with more than 750,000 licensed hunters contributing \$2.3 billion annually to the state economy, while Michigan's wildlife watchers spend \$1.2 billion. The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund, supported through donations and the purchase of the Michigan Wildlife Habitat license plate, supports natural heritage research, education and habitat restoration projects to identify, protect, manage and restore native plant and animal species.

**Minerals Management** administers 6.4 million acres of Michigan's mineral estate, which includes leasing the rights to explore for state-owned metallic, nonmetallic, oil and gas minerals, and underground natural gas storage areas. These leases annually contribute between \$40 million and \$60 million to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund for parks improvement, and to the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund for game and fish management. Until the constitutionally mandated cap was reached in May 2011, these revenues also were deposited into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for recreational land acquisition and

development grants that continue to be issued today.

Minerals Management also provides geological and mineral resource evaluation services for department land transactions and works closely with other state agencies, industry and environmental groups and the public on matters related to these vital natural resource-based economies.

## ***Administration Bureau***

The **Administration Bureau** includes the Finance and Operations Division, the Marketing and Outreach Division, the Michigan Historical Center and the Technology Section.

The **Finance and Operations Division** provides a complete range of financial and administrative support, including budget and financial services, facilities management, real estate, grants management, purchasing, field operations support and business operations. This division is heavily involved in customer service efforts for both internal and external customers.

The **Marketing and Outreach Division** provides an array of services, including communications, website administration, license sales customer systems, marketing, and educational programs for all ages and experience levels. The division's efforts are chiefly designed to find creative, new ways to get more Michigan residents and visitors outside, enjoying our state's unmatched natural spaces and taking advantage of a growing variety of recreation opportunities.

The **Michigan Historical Center's** ([www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory)) museum and archival programs help people discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. The center includes the Michigan Historical Museum, 10 regional museums, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and the Archives of Michigan. These educational, interactive sites annually welcome more than 380,000 visitors of all ages, including 60,000 schoolchildren who explore MHC's flagship museum in Lansing every year. The center also includes the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission; the Michigan Historical Commission; the Michigan Historical Marker program; the Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board; the Michigan State Historic Records Advisory Board; and Seeking Michigan ([www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org)), an evolving website bringing even more people in touch with the stories of Michigan's families, homes, businesses, communities and landscapes as told by unique, digitized source documents, maps, films, images, oral histories and artifacts.

The **Technology Section** provides central coordination for all of the department's information-technology activities. It serves as the primary point of contact in working with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to address department IT priorities, status and needs. This includes critical work on long-term planning, funding and initiatives; development and maintenance of applications; addressing and resolving network issues; and completing inventories. The Technology Section also is responsible for compliance with data privacy and security standards, IT data storage limitations, Internet connectivity, telecommunications, mobile devices, software, and email usage and storage.



The DNR also encompasses several entities, offices, committees and commissions that provide essential support and guidance to the above-referenced programs and help preserve, promote and interpret Michigan's natural, historic and cultural resources. They include:

The **Tribal Coordination Office** works to develop and sustain positive and mutually beneficial, cooperative relationships with Michigan's tribal governments, with emphasis on the natural resource provisions related to the 1836 Treaty (with its associated Great Lakes and Inland Consent Decrees) and the 1842 Treaty's natural resource components.

The **Upper Peninsula Regional Office** serves to represent the department and director in the Upper Peninsula by working closely with stakeholders, media outlets, community organizations, local units of government, elected officials and the public to build awareness and understanding of department policies and programs, natural resource-related issues and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The **Public Information Office** works closely with the executive office and department divisions to coordinate the communication of core DNR messages on a statewide basis to a variety of audiences, serves as primary contact for media representatives, and partners in the marketing of department initiatives, programs and services — all in an effort to strengthen the public's connection to Michigan's natural and cultural resources.

The **Legislative and Legal Affairs Office** works with the Office of Attorney General on litigation

involving state properties, employees and natural resource-related issues. Staff also focuses its efforts on administrative rules and regulations and emerging natural and cultural resources issues, strengthening the department's relationship with the Legislature, helping to evaluate and set department policy, and assisting the director and management team with strategic planning, implementation of department priorities and special assignments. The office also provides guidance in response to Freedom of Information Act requests and assists in drafting and updating department policies and procedures, administrative rules and DNR director's orders for land use, fisheries and wildlife conservation. The office also maintains original, signed memoranda of understanding and other interagency agreements and makes recommendations on contract and grant agreement language.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Commission** ([www.michigan.gov/nrc](http://www.michigan.gov/nrc)) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Citizen-initiated legislation authorized the NRC to regulate sport fishing beginning in 2015. Voter adoption of Proposal G in 1996 vests exclusive authority in the NRC to regulate the taking of game. Residents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved in the commission's regularly scheduled public forums.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** ([www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants)) was created in 1976, thanks to a forward-thinking state Legislature, to create a sustainable funding source for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation opportunities in Michigan. Funds for these grants are derived from interest paid on the proceeds of oil and gas sales on state-managed land — thus trading one non-renewable resource for another. Applications for Trust Fund grants are available to local and state governments. Projects are encouraged to provide universal accessibility for all types of public recreation. The Trust Fund board of trustees is a five-member body, appointed by the governor, to review applications and make recommendations for development projects and land acquisitions. The list of projects is then reviewed and approved by the Legislature and the appropriation of dollars is signed by the governor before projects are started. The Trust Fund has, in large part, been responsible for helping to create Michigan's enviable trail system and local and state park systems. It has, to date, awarded more than \$988 million toward land acquisition and public outdoor recreation development projects in every county throughout Michigan.

The **Mackinac Island State Park Commission** is an autonomous entity with authority to acquire, construct, maintain and improve property related to the historic Straits of Mackinac. The commission was formed in 1895 and is responsible for all aspects of managing Mackinac State Historic Parks ([www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com)). It meets approximately five times a year and is made up of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners serve six-year terms.

Additionally, there are several committees and councils that advise the department. These include (but are not limited to):

- Michigan Trails Advisory Council
- Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee
- Michigan State Waterways Commission
- Timber Advisory Council
- Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils

Learn more about all of the DNR's many advisory bodies by visiting [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and selecting "Commissions, Boards and Committees."

